Recommendations of Kirit Parikh Panel

1782. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kirit Parikh Panel has recommended that nuclear energy is critical for long term energy security for the country;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the panel; and

(c) whether the country would be short of indigenous uranium to be used as fuel in support of a vastly enlarged nuclear power programme that will be consistent with the obligation to contribute to the campaign against global warming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Expert Committee headed by Dr. Kirit S. Parikh, in its draft report recognises the potential of the nuclear power and recommends continuing support to the development of India's three-state nuclear power programme in meeting country's long term energy secuity objectives.

(c) The enlarged nuclear power programme would be realised through rapid progress in development of our three stage nuclear power programme to tap vast energy potential in our thorium resources in the long run and at the same time setting up nuclear power reactors based on foreign collaborations as additionality in the short run.

Thorium as Basic Atomic Energy

1783. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Atomic Energy Commission has pointed out that thorium, which is available in abundance in the country should be the base for the country's nuclear energy programme and not imported nuclear fuels; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Indian atomic energy programme has been formulated to achieve long-term energy security through use